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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: December 12,

SUBJECT: Berlin

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. John J. McCloy, Chase National Bank  
Mr. J. J. Reinstein, GER

COPIES TO: G  
EUR  
GER  
GPA  
GER - Mrs. Dulles

RA  
Embassy, Bonn - Ambassador Bruce  
USEER, Berlin - Mr. Hillenbrand

During the course of a telephone conversation, Mr. McCloy said he hoped the reports on his impressions of his trip to Germany had been helpful to the Department. He knew that we received many reports from observers who follow the scene more closely than he did and he was somewhat uncertain as to whether his reports had been helpful. Mr. Reinstein said that they had been very much appreciated and that they had been most helpful indeed.

Mr. Reinstein referred to Mr. McCloy's conversation with Mrs. Dulles of November 29. He asked whether Mayor Brandt or others had indicated specifically what they had in mind in their statement that we had not been sufficiently firm with regard to recent harassments by the Soviets. Mr. McCloy said that no specific cases had been cited. He went on to say that the concern, he thought, arose not particularly from events in Berlin, but from the doubt as to whether the United States was prepared to defend Berlin in the light of the capability on the part of the Soviets to launch missiles at the United States. He remarked that he had perhaps not made this point clear in his correspondence with the Secretary but that he had hesitated to write again on the subject. He said that he thought the statement which had been made by Secretary McElroy had taken care of the problem.

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Ancl-  
EUR:GER:JJReinstein/ca  
12/19/57

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